

hands, that for the instruments and how one substance is most valuable in ophthalmic and another in obstetric practice

The second part of the work deals with the antiseptic management of special lesions such as compound fracture, osteotomies, herniotomies, abscesses, erysipelas, etc.

An appendix of eight pages treats briefly of obstetric antiseptis.

C. B. KEETLEY.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE IN IRELAND, Vol. V., 1887. Dublin; Fannin & Co.; London, Bailliere, Tindall & Co.; Edinburgh, Maclachlan & Stewart.

The present volume, we suppose, is the last which will appear under the old title of the Academy of Medicine in Ireland. For since the termination of the session 1886-1887, the euphonious prefix "Royal" has been secured, and in future we shall have to deal with the Transactions of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland. Like its predecessors, the volume before us is a bulky tome, consisting of 367 pages, which include only a selection of the papers which have been read before the various sections during the session 1886-1887. The papers which have been chosen to form the surgical section are valuable and interesting, both on account of their practical character, as well as of the important subjects with which they deal. Mr. Wheeler contributes a very useful paper on the "Conservative Surgery of the Foot and Ankle-joint," which is inclusive of the records of several cases in which he has practiced excision of the os calcis and astragalus for caries of the bones in question.

Referring to the subperiosteal method of excising the os calcis he observes that he does not believe in the advantages claimed for it, while it has in his opinion many disadvantages; moreover, the periosteum is often diseased, and does not after operations always carry out its wonted functions. The case of trephining of the mastoid process, by Mr. Fitzgibbon, which excited so much discussion in the Medical Press and Circular at the time it was read before the Academy is published in full, and is a useful contribution to the subject of brain surgery.

In a paper on "Pylorus Resection" by Mr. McArdle, we learn that in more than 50 per cent. of all the cases of cancer of the stomach, of which the author has been able to collect the records, the disease was confined to the pylorus—the whole subject of the operative treatment of cancer of the stomach is here ably discussed, and a full de-

scription is given of the various details to be followed, and precautions to be observed, in the operation of resection of the pylorus.

Mr. J. K. Barton records a case of *Œsophagotomy to Remove a Foreign Body*: the foreign body was a steel roller, belonging to a sewing machine, and the patient was a child. Where primary union does not occur in the *œsophagus* after operation, the author deems it to be the best plan to feed the patient—not through the mouth—but through the wound by the means of a catheter or india-rubber tube. Mr. Kendal Franks contributes a paper on “*Nephrolithotomy*,” and Mr. Thornley Stoker one upon “*Some Elements of Success in Excision of the Knee-Joint*.” The three factors of superlative importance in these cases he considers to be (1) complete removal of all diseased structures; (2) relative permanence of dressings; (3) thorough fixation of parts. An interesting case of sarcoma of the tonsil is recorded, with remarks by Mr. H. G. Croly. The concluding paper of the surgical section is on the “*Contrast between Laparo-Colotomy and Lumbar Colotomy*” by Dr. C. B. Ball. There are several of surgical interest in the pathological section, and notably one by Mr. H. Q. Swanzy on “*A Case of Fibro Sarcoma of the Orbit*,” on “*Trephining in Epilepsy*” by Mr. Wheeler, and one by Dr. Bennett, on “*Fracture of the Ischium*.” The illustrations throughout the volume are well done, and there is evidence everywhere of careful editing.

THE PRINCIPLES OF CANCER AND TUMOUR FORMATION. By W. ROGER WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S. London, John Bale & Sons, 1888.

This volume of 196 pages is intended, in the words of the author as “*An Introduction to a Contemplated Treatise on the Pathology and Treatment of Cancer and Tumor Formation*, of which it forms the first part.” In the chapter on reproduction the author states, “*I have arrived at the important conclusion that the processes of repair and reproduction of lost parts, and the various morphological variations, including bud cancer and tumor formations, are nothing but more or less abortive attempts of certain cells to reproduce new individuals—whence it follows that the laws of reproduction are also the laws of cancer and tumor formation.*” Chapters follow on “*The Evolution of Vegetable Neoplasms*,” and on “*The Evolution of Animal Neoplasms*,” in which the leading idea embodied in the quotation above given is worked upon. In the latter chapter, the theory that cancer is a blood disease is refuted, and the author expresses his consonance with the views of De Mojan that a tumor from the first is a